Not the most Eco-friendly option: Clay Idols

If you wanted to celebrate the Ganesh Pujas in the most eco-friendly way and opted to build or get a clay idol made, then you might have not ended up doing what you had intended. Contrary to beliefs, clay Ganesh idols might not be the safest for environment and the sustainable way to go. There are mainly two types of idols out there that are made and they are in white clay or Plaster of Paris. Now, clay is said to be able to cause similar harm to the water bodies as Plaster of Paris does. So what are the two main reasons that make clay not eco-friendly? Let's find out.

Dissolving issue

It is known and proven that clay dissolves faster than Plaster of Paris, but that doesn't mean its eco-friendly as idols made of clay take at least three weeks to dissolve in water. Therefore it is capable of inflicting harm to the aquatic life, including the animals and vegetation.

Colors and Pigment

The major harm with clay idols still remain the color and pigments used to beautify the idol. People are usually so busy building a clay idol, they forget to keep a check on the decorative, but those colors are the most harmful when it comes to harming the environment. These colorants have toxic elements in them that can kill aquatic life and pollute the water.

So, what can we do?

For starters, let us understand that it takes idols made of Plaster of Paris three or even four months to dissolve in water and clay idols about three weeks. Compared to these two, paper pulp idols take about three to four days to dissolve. Therefore, the paper pup is definitely a safer alternative. And for colors, poster colors are less harmful but the best alternative would always be natural dyes.

Source: https://giftingideasforlovedones.wordpress.com/2021/03/05/not-the-most-eco-friendly-option-clay-idols/